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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2617
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1690
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1108

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 000293

SIPDIS

FOR EAP/MTS, IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2014

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [MY](#)

SUBJECT: UNHRC DEMARCHE: MALAYSIA WELCOMES U.S. ENGAGEMENT,
NONCOMMITTAL ON CANDIDACY

REF: STATE 36629

Classified By: Political Counselor Mark D. Clark, reasons 1.4, b and d.

11. (C) The Embassy conveyed reftel diplomatic note on April 15 formally announcing the U.S. candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and seeking Malaysia's support. Polcouns spoke with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (Multilateral Political Affairs) Ganeson Sivagurunathan on April 15. Ganeson stated that Malaysia would view U.S. engagement in the HRC as a positive change, but he did not elaborate on prospects for supporting the U.S. candidacy.

12. (C) During the Ambassador's April 19 dinner in honor of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Polcouns raised the issue with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Rastam Mohd Isa in the context of renewed U.S. international engagement. Rastam confirmed he had read the U.S. diplomatic note and supporting materials, and he acknowledged the U.S. request for support. Rastam remarked that he viewed the Obama Administration as moving very quickly and positively with a new foreign policy agenda. Malaysia welcomed U.S. engagement with the UNHRC. In response to Polcouns' specific question, Rastam remained noncommittal on supporting the U.S. election to the Council, but said that if the U.S. joins, he would hope for increased coordination between the U.S. and Malaysia on human rights issues.

KEITH